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MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE CULTURE OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

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ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1895.

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New Series.

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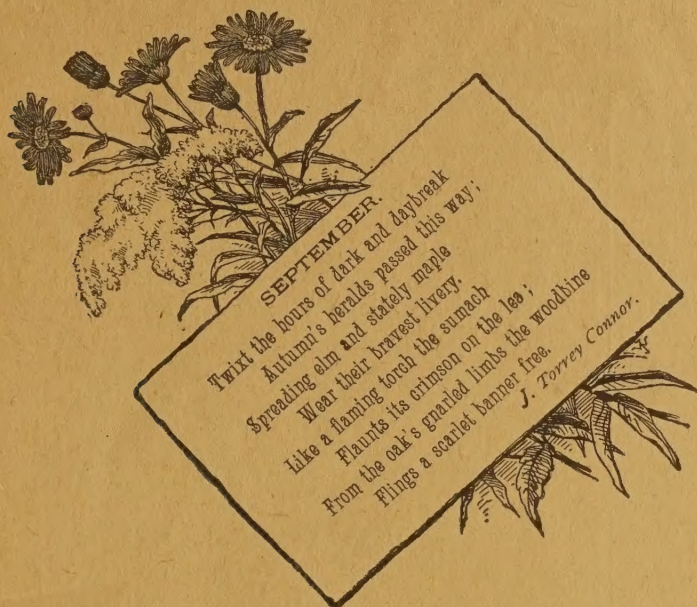
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VICK'S MAGAZINE.

Vol. 18.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1895.

No. 11



CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

EACH year gives us many new varieties of the ever-lovely chrysanthemums, and the past season seems more fruitful than any of its predecessors. At a chrysanthemum show I attended last season there were many new ones exhibited, as well as hundreds of older sorts. Some of the latest introductions were cut flowers from the prize winners at the chrysanthemum show in Chicago. They included the Philadelphia, a lovely white, marked faintly with lemon at the edges of petals; Crystalina, a new white seedling carrying off the prize as the best pure white seedling, it forms a perfect ball, and the ends of its petals are notched, giving it a unique appearance; Mrs. W. H. Rand is a yellow flower of odd form, having its petals tubular for half their length and split the remainder, twisting together in a strange, tangled mass; Burt Eddy and Jayne are both pink sorts, the former a fine soft pink of good form, and the latter a bright rose color, the flowers having unusually good keeping qualities.

Among the sorts that have been introduced within the last two or three years were Nivens, a snow-white variety of great beauty and substance, having its inner petals incurved and the outer ones reflexed. It showed the best keeping qualities when cut of any sort on exhibition. It was introduced in 1892, and so far has proved a complete success.

Joseph White, an unusually large flower, attracted much attention from its purity of color and perfect form.

Minnie Wanamaker, another pure white variety with incurved petals; this is now placed among the best white varieties.

Enfant des deux Mondes, or "Child of two Worlds," is a beautiful one of the ostrich plume variety, but a great improvement over Mrs. Alpheus Hardy, both in size, form, growth of plant and keeping qualities.

Inter-Ocean, a fine large pink flower which grows to immense size, but has rather a coarse appearance when compared with the last named. Its petals are very broad, of great substance and it makes a fine display as an exhibition plant.

Geo. W. Childs, bears mammoth flowers of a rich crimson color, and the petals have a very velvety appearance. It was introduced in 1892.

W. B. Smith, a handsome bronze flower, the incurved petals being broad, but free from coarseness.

Richard Dean, a new French pink, bids fair to become a general favorite, though it will be hard to supersede Vivian Morel, which is now unquestionably the leader among the pink sorts.

These mentioned, being comparatively new and exhibited by florists to advertise them, had been grown entirely under glass and the buds thinned to only two or three on a plant, so the blossoms were of immense size.

The Inter-Ocean especially showed the largest blossoms ever seen here; one of them measured ten inches across.

To the ordinary flower lover there is no great beauty in these immense flowers, but as a novelty they are a great success. Most of us, however, would prefer a dozen flowers of medium size, to one monstrosity.

In the amateurs' exhibit were many fine plants with large blossoms, but of course nothing to compare with those displayed by the

florists. Ivory, Waban, Gloriosum, Leopard, Lillian B. Bird, Louis Boehmer, Gettysburg, Queen, Marie Louise, and Mrs. Fottler were among them.

At a chrysanthemum show I attended some years ago, one corner was reserved for a display of the old-fashioned sorts that our grandmothers used to cultivate and call "artemisias." Of the large flowering sorts there were three, pink, white and yellow,—and by the way, I have never seen a pink flower of the improved ones that was as handsome a color as the old pink one we used to grow. Among the small flowered ones were white, yellow, and a dark magenta often mixed with white. The latter named ones were little round button-shaped flowers and were profuse bloomers.

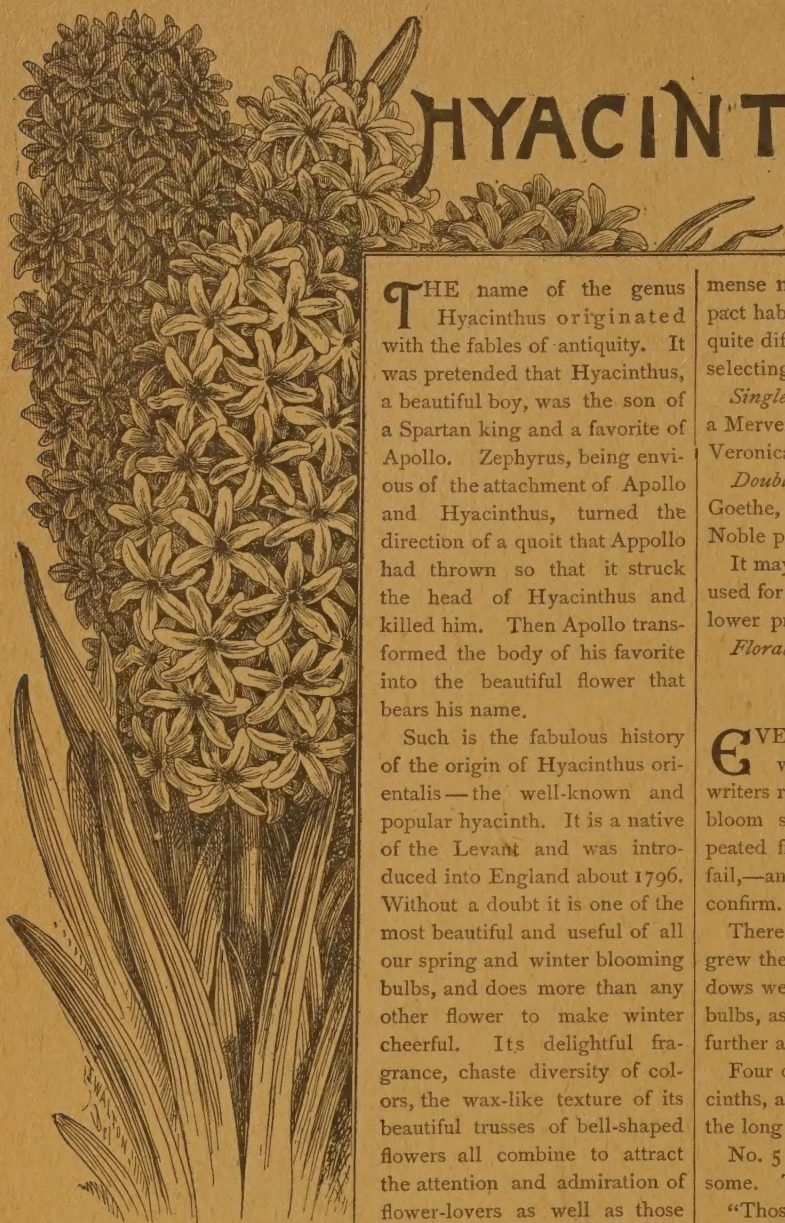
All the chrysanthemums I ever raised were treated in the following way, and though I have no greenhouse I usually have good success: I obtain rooted cuttings from a florist in May, and as soon as the weather is settled I plant them in the garden in good soil that has been deeply worked and well fertilized. The soil around the plants is kept stirred and loose, and ground bone or phosphate is dug into it near the roots two or three times during the summer. When a plant reaches six inches in height the top is pinched out to cause it to branch. I allow four branches to grow and when they are four inches high pinch them back. Let two or three shoots grow from each stalk until they are ten inches tall and pinch them for the last time. Usually it is better not to pinch back any shoots later than August 1st. Then let the plant grow and bud without further attention, except to thin out the buds. For good results do not leave more than one bud to a stalk; that will ensure perfect flowers of large size and get rid of the one-sided specimens we often see on plants that set more buds than they can mature properly.

About September 1st in this climate (Northern Illinois) the old plants must be taken up. I remove mine to a sunny up-stairs room where there is no fire and they mature much better than when placed in a warm room. At this stage the plants require a great deal of water, and in addition to the regular supply I water mine with manure water once a week and spray the leaves well every day. This latter treatment will prevent the ravages of the green lice which are such a pest on the plants.

This season I am trying a new plan in growing a part of my plants: Growing them in pots plunged in the ground, and re-potting as often as necessary. The system of pinching shoots and picking off buds is followed just the same, and the plants will be placed in a cold frame in September. I am planning to have them blossom out doors and save the trouble of them in the house. The glass over the frame can be covered with blankets on cold nights, and after blooming the pots can be removed to the cellar until spring.

Good sorts for the amateur are Ivory, Queen, Jessica and Elaine, white; Geo. W. Childs, Gettysburg and Salvator, red; Vivian Morel, Waban and Dawn, pink; Golden Wedding, Gloriosum and Yellow Queen, yellow.

If one wishes more of the later sorts the new one previously described, will all be found satisfactory,
BERNICE BAKER.



HYACINTHS.

THE name of the genus *Hyacinthus* originated with the fables of antiquity. It was pretended that *Hyacinthus*, a beautiful boy, was the son of a Spartan king and a favorite of Apollo. Zephyrus, being envious of the attachment of Apollo and *Hyacinthus*, turned the direction of a quoit that Appollo had thrown so that it struck the head of *Hyacinthus* and killed him. Then Apollo transformed the body of his favorite into the beautiful flower that bears his name.

Such is the fabulous history of the origin of *Hyacinthus orientalis*—the well-known and popular hyacinth. It is a native of the Levant and was introduced into England about 1796. Without a doubt it is one of the most beautiful and useful of all our spring and winter blooming bulbs, and does more than any other flower to make winter cheerful. Its delightful fragrance, chaste diversity of colors, the wax-like texture of its beautiful trusses of bell-shaped flowers all combine to attract the attention and admiration of flower-lovers as well as those

who are most indifferent to the charms of Flora. It is a bulb of the easiest culture, whether grown inside or in the open air, and with the exercise of a little care no one can fail to meet with success. But to enable them to do their best it is important that they be properly cared for. The bulbs should be secured and planted as early as possible, while they are yet fresh and vigorous.

For pot culture the bulbs do best when given a compost consisting of two-thirds turfy loam, one-third well decayed manure or leaf mold, and a fair sprinkling of sharp sand; mix well and use the compost rough. In potting see that the pots are properly drained and let the bulbs be so placed in the soil that the upper surface will just be visible. A 4-inch pot is the best size for the successful growth of the bulbs, one in a pot.

After planting they should be well watered and placed in a dark cellar to make root, giving them water whenever it may be necessary. In about eight or ten weeks the pots will be well filled with roots, and a vigorous top growth will begin to set in; then a few of the most forward can be brought into a light, sunny situation, where an average temperature of 55° is maintained. Water should be given whenever necessary, and an abundance of fresh air whenever possible; keep the plants free from dust and support the flower spikes with neat stakes, if it becomes necessary, to keep them erect. If the plants are placed in a low temperature when in bloom the flowers will remain in perfection a long time. After the flowers commence to fade the stalks can be removed, and as soon as the foliage commences to decay the bulbs can be removed to the cellar, placing them in a light situation, and the supply of water gradually reduced. When the leaves have fully ripened, the bulbs can be removed from the pots and packed away in bags or boxes for planting in the fall. Bulbs that have bloomed inside are altogether useless for

another season's use in the same manner; they may be planted out in the border where they will give a good account of themselves the ensuing spring. A fresh supply should be obtained for potting. Hyacinths differ in habit very much, some varieties throwing up a strong flowerspike with a loose truss, others have a short stem with a compact truss; the robust growing kinds have large bells, while those less robust have an im-

mense number of small bells. The bright red colors are all of a compact habit. There are so many varieties listed in catalogues that it is quite difficult to select a few of the best, but one will not go astray in selecting any or all from the following list:

Single—Amy, Baron Von Thuyll, Chas. Dickens, Gigantea, Grandeur a Merveille, Herman, Ida Jesckko, La Pluie d'Or, Mt. Blanc, Norma, Veronica.

Double—A la Mode, Anna Maria, Bouquet Royal, Czar Nicholas, Goethe, Jenny Lind, L'Esperance, La Tour d'Auvergne, Blocksberg, Noble par Merite, and King of Wurtemberg.

It may be well to mention that the named varieties should always be used for pot culture, as the mixed varieties which are offered at a much lower price seldom produce as satisfactory results when grown inside.

Floral Park, N. Y.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

HOW TO FAIL WITH HYACINTHS.

EVERY bulb catalogue expatiates on the ease and certainty with which the beautiful hyacinth may be flowered in pots. Floral writers reiterate the story, and point us to much-enduring hyacinths that bloom sweetly in poorly-lighted windows, or that triumphed over repeated freezings. Thereby an impression has arisen that they *cannot* fail,—an impression, unfortunately, that experience does not always confirm.

There was once a lady whose hyacinths never failed her, although she grew them by the hundred. She had a half dozen friends whose windows were always flowerless. Once she sent these friends some fine bulbs, assuring each party that they could not fail to bloom well, and further asked a report from each.

Four of the six reported the most unbounded success with their hyacinths, and were enthusiastic (as the successful amateur always is) over the long spikes of marvelously beautiful, waxy and fragrant flowers.

No. 5 reported: "Only one of the bulbs bloomed; it was very handsome. The others all rotted in the cellar."

"Those bulbs you sent me," wrote No. 6, "looked very nice when we brought them up from the cellar. The roots came clear through the holes at the bottoms of the pots, and the shoots looked nice and plump. The leaves of the bulbs were not over two inches long when buds began to open *right out of the bulb* at the top or crown. It was the funniest thing you ever saw,—it reminded me of a crowd of little urchins that by dint of hard climbing pull themselves up, one by one, so that they can just peep over a forbidden wall, then lose their hold and tumble down, while other youngsters take their places. The flowers never could get free enough from the bulb's clutch to expand, so I could only tell that they showed lovely shades of pink and blue. I kept hoping they would get high enough to open, but they never did. As fast as one flower withered, its impatient sister next below would stick her head up, but it never could get free from the mother-bulb's squeeze, try as hard as it might. I found lots of amusement in watching them, but really I can't say that they were ornamental."

The *morale* of this incident is that perhaps one-third of beginners at least, will fail with this flower, as well as with any other plant, by persistently giving it the wrong treatment. The hyacinth is hardy, healthy and vigorous, and like all bulbs of this class has the embryo flowers already formed in the heart of the bulb, ready to push themselves out at the first favorable opportunity. This explains why it is able to endure so many hardships and yet bloom. Nevertheless, one can drown out, or roast out the plant, or pen its pretty spikes forlorn prisoners behind bulb walls. If you wish to make the floral writers out as falsifiers, or prove that it is "just your luck" to have no flowers, follow these rules and two times out of three you will succeed.

Carefully follow the catalogue rules as to planting, size of pots, etc. It gives one such a comfortable feeling of martyrdom to be able to say,

"I followed the printed rules to the letter, and behold my failure!" After the pots are all in the dark cellar, just as you were told to put them, so that they will make roots, you want to get uneasy for fear that they are "drying out." Of course the temperature is low, the air damp, and evaporation slow, the more so that there are no leaves to exhale the moisture taken up from the soil. You must not let these considerations deter you in the least; twice a week you want to give every one of those pots a good watering. Bulbs of any kind, when not in active growth, are supposed to rot easily from excessive moisture. Hyacinths have such hard, plump bulbs that frequently with one's best efforts to do so, they cannot succeed in rotting more than half of them while in the cellar.

There is still a chance to manage those that survive. Florists always say to bring potted bulbs gradually to the light. They give as a reason that the tiny flower-spikes folded tightly

GARDEN PLANTS IN THE WINDOW.

SOME of our garden flowers make first-class house plants. Geraniums, abutilons, begonias and fuchsias are certainly beautiful in the window, but their constant employment, to the exclusion of almost everything else, is beginning to border upon the monotonous. When marigolds, petunias, salvias, stocks and cockscombs are as sure to bloom, and by most people as much admired, why not utilize spare plants from our flower beds and secure greater variety of bloom at no additional expense whatever?

By good rights, plants for the house should already have been started, but it is not yet too late if care is used in lifting them. Tall, overgrown specimens are hard to lift with the ball of earth unbroken around the roots, and if this happens they usually wilt down and refuse to revive unless severely cut back; again, plants

less hoe. Now to move a plant without its receiving a check in leaf or flower, it must be lifted with the earth around its roots unbroken. Just after a soaking rain, when the soil clings in a muddy ball to the roots, a knife or trowel may be inserted a little at one side of the plant, as deep as the roots extend downward; then, by a little skillful pressure the tool is made to act as a lever and the whole ball of earth is turned out in one unbroken mass. Choose a pot just large enough to hold the mass nicely. Put the plant in, fill the crevices, if there be any, with fresh soil, and the deed is done, and your plant none the worse for it. Should the soil be broken about the roots, shade the plant carefully a few days, and it will usually soon recover. Do not fail to take up a few petunias and stocks this fall. When you enjoy their bright, butterfly-like blooms this winter, you will wonder how you ever got along without them before.

L. S. LAM.



SINGLE HYACINTH.



DOUBLE HYACINTH.



ROMAN HYACINTH.

in the heart of the bulb are sensitive to the sun's rays, and if placed at once in the sunshine expand so rapidly that the spikes are too thick to pass through the narrow throat of the bulb and are held there as though gripped in a vise. Pay no attention to their croaking. Do not put your sprouting hyacinths on some shaded back shelf until the folded spike-head peeps through as much as to say "Here I am, put me in the sunniest window if you like." Why should you put yourself out that much? No, bring the pots right up from the cool, dark cellar into a hot room, and give them the sunniest window you can find. You will have the rare pleasure of seeing the majority of your hyacinths trying to bloom before they are ready to, and making a fine jumble of it accordingly. Their pinched, stemless blossoms will bear about as much resemblance to the florist's stately spikes of hyacinths as a picked bantam does to a full-feathered buff cochin.

LORA S. LAMANCE.

Pineville, Mo.

that have been in bloom a long time have their vitality exhausted to a great extent, and will cease to bloom before the winter is over. Young, thrifty, compact plants that have not yet reached the blooming stage, or that are just coming into bud or bloom, make shapely specimens from the beginning, and have so much vigor that they flower for months unceasingly. A little search in almost any garden will reveal plenty of such plants. Here is a belated cockscomb, nicotiana or aster, or a thrifty young balsam, petunia, or marigold that has sprung up from the self-sown seed of the first flowers of the season; yonder a newly budded ageratum or a daisy. Now, if these can be taken up so carefully that the roots suffer no break or disturbance—and they can be—one has all the materials one needs for a winter window garden.

It is distressing to see some people take up a tender plant. Either they will savagely twist off half its foliage and roots in a futile attempt to pull the plant bodily from the ground, or else they cut and hack the roots to pieces with care-

STRAWBERRY RASPBERRY.

In notices of new varieties of fruits in the *Rural Californian*, S. L. Watkins says:

A very unique and beautiful new fruit is the strawberry raspberry, known botanically as *Rubus sorbifolius*. It has only been introduced a short time and hence is comparatively unknown to the general public. It is a fruit that we believe will be widely cultivated when better known. It attains quite a good sized bush, similar in habit to our common cultivated raspberries. The leaves resemble those of the rose bush. The fruit is very large, of a most brilliant red, and resembles a huge strawberry growing on a bush. The flavor is very delicate, and they ripen early. The bushes of this strange looking fruit are very productive. It is a fruit that will sell well in commerce on account of its very attractive appearance. As an ornamental plant it is one of decided merit, to say nothing of its valuable fruit. As it is quite hardy its range of cultivation will undoubtedly be large.



A REMINISCENCE.

"The sweetest fruit the gods bestow,
Do best in thine own garden grow;
Till well the soil, for if not there,
Thou wilt not find them anywhere."

And the sweetest and fairest flowers are apt to grow there also, at least the ones we have carefully tended and loved look the fairest to our eyes. The best pansies I ever grew, were from seed kindly sent me many years ago by the elder James Vick. Every year I used to send my little order for seed to him, and sometimes wondered at his filling it so faithfully when it was of such small consequence. But one year there was a grand surprise for me, when with the vegetable seeds and the flower seeds ordered was enclosed some pansy seed with the compliments of Mr. Vick.

That was a treasure indeed, and one of the red letter days of that summer. There was the King of the Blacks, the Snow White, the Yellow Margined, and several other varieties. Beds were made at once, "Part in the shadow and part in the sun," and the seed was planted directly in the beds. I know now it would have been a surer thing to have started them in boxes, but the fates were propitious, and it was a "wet moon." They came up well, and how they did grow. All the interest of the flower yard centered around them. The other things were pretty enough, but the flower *par excellence* were the pansies.

Every morning they were visited early to see if new ones had opened, for one paper of the seed was mixed, and marvelous things might appear from it. The King of the Blacks was the first black we had ever seen, and in fact we have never had any since of a more intense velvety black than those beauties. Beside them grew the Snow White, some with only a dot of yellow in the center, and some with faint markings of purple. The Yellow Margined were new and how we enjoyed them. Since then fancy pansies of many kinds have bloomed for us, and been admired and loved too, but none have seemed of quite the same interest as those that grew in the shade of the tall Lombardy poplar on the farm.

I remember that one bed was filled with shades of lovely purple and blue ones, and one with clear bright yellow. It seemed as if every seed germinated and grew lustily to produce such a show. That was before the days of VICK'S MAGAZINE, and before the days when

nearly every mail in the spring brings a new seed catalogue to the table.

Vick's was the only one we received regularly, and how we studied it. If Mr. V. said certain things were hardy, we had no hesitation in planting them, for we were confident they would winter all right if properly cared for, and with this eager study of what he said, it is not strange that we caught a little of his enthusiasm.

I was very young then, and beyond a letter of thanks for his thoughtful kindness, made no acknowledgement of it, but have thought many times since that it was quite unusual, and that possibly it would have gratified him to have known how much pleasure they gave, not for that year alone, but the seed was carefully saved for many years. Of course they were not kept true to name, or color, they mix too easily for that, but they were pretty, and Vick's pansies became very popular in the neighborhood, and his seed in great demand every year.

Some dahlias we bought of him in those days lingered in our memories so delightfully that a year or two ago I bought of his successors some more of the very same kinds, Oriole and Bird of Passage, and they are growing to-day beside the newer fashioned varieties, and are not a bit ashamed because of their longer record. They are fully "up to date" in beauty and equal to the very latest out. They are prime favorites because they are worthy of being so.

And by the way I am glad to see that the dahlia is a popular flower again. Those of us who like its stateliness in the garden for August and September are now in no danger of being called "old-fashioned" or "cranky" for it is exactly the proper thing to have, and if we are lucky enough to have a good collection, fortune has indeed smiled upon us.

If we are only starting a collection, or buying a few kinds, it may be rather bewildering to choose from among the many offered, but I should not be afraid to risk my reputation for good taste in the matter of selecting Oriole, Bird of Passage, Ethel Vick, Mirefield Beauty, Snow Cloud and Profusion for a half dozen that would be sure to please. Of course there are others just as good, but we cannot have all the best in a single half dozen.

Their worst enemy is continued dry hot weather, and they never really do their best until the rains are frequent and the nights are

cool. Few flowers seem more grateful for copious supplies of water, and repay for the trouble quicker in improved foliage and increased size and perfection of flowers.

Few are more decorative for cut flowers. A vase of the long stemmed beauties arranged so each flower can show its individuality is something to be remembered with pleasure, and with their great diversities of form and color and size every taste can be suited. SARAH A. GIBBS.

ROSE NOTES.

Here are some notes by a writer in a late number of the *Journal of Horticulture*:

I desire to call attention to a most interesting article on "Ancient Rose Growers" in the July *Quarterly*. It occurs in a review of Mr. Foster-Melliar's great work, and Mr. W. Paul's exhaustive work, *The Rose Garden*, ninth edition. The reviewer is at once master of terse English and of his subject. His own theory, well developed, is that "Rose culture may claim to be quite the oldest and the most highly developed of the many struggles of man with Nature," which I apprehend has been

"Often thought before, but ne'er so well expressed."

He considers that the rose originated, like our first parents, in Central Asia; that it was brought to Greece, perhaps with the alphabet, by the Phœnicians. He corrects the common idea in regard to Sappho's Rose Ode and shows that it should really be attributed to one Tatius, A. D. 500.

He then, which is peculiarly interesting, traces down the old Cabbage (*pace* Dean Hole, let us rather say, *R. centifolia*) from the time of Herodotus, in fact further back; quoting, in his reference to the Gardens of Midas a description of a rose "so sweet that no other can vie with it, and the blossoms have as many as sixty petals apiece." Another popular error is grappled with, which attributes this rose bringing into England to Edmund Crouchbeck, Earl of Lancaster, in right of his wife Lord of Provins, in 1277. It is shown it was the Provins, not the Provence, a crimson single flower, brought from Palestine by the Crusaders, not the good old pure rose colored—dare I say it again—Cabbage.

The difficult question of the perpetual, or, at least, twice-bearing *Pæstum* roses, is also gone into; and it is explained that probably in Virgil's time, when roses were budded and grafted and pruned hardly less than nowadays, this Lucanian rose garden was probably the Cheshunt or Colchester of the day. "What a place!" says Addington Simonds. "Deep loam reclaimed from swamps, and irrigated by perpetual streams." An old woman once remarked "Her husband was enough to irrigate an angel."

My recollection of *Pæstum* certainly is that its roses would certainly not lack the incentive. The little known distinction is then drawn very clearly between the true York and Lancaster and the *Rosa Mundi*, a striped Gallica, which is sometimes confused with it. If I might make one possible addition to this excellent article it would be to point out that, according to Miss Strickland, this rose did originate about the time of the happy close of the Wars of the Roses, when people were beginning to hope that Henry of Lancaster would marry (as he did after Bosworth) Elizabeth of York. "In 1493 great crowds," she writes, "went to behold a natural prodigy of a rose bush which produced blossoms where the rival colors of York and Lancaster were for the first time seen blended. This the English considered an auspicious omen." This statement is strengthened by a happy quotation from the poet Gray:—

Above, below, the Rose of Snow,
Twined with her blushing foe, we spied;
The bristled Boar, in infant gore,
Wallows beneath the thorny glade!

The allusion, of course, is to Richard's supposed murder of his nephews, of his badge the boar, and to his crown after Bosworth being found in a thorn bush.

RARE PLANTS OF BISCAYNE BAY.



ONE of the most beautiful trees, as well as one which is very common in all the hammocks—as well as in the pine-lands, though more rarely—of this part of the coast, is the Florida rubber (*Ficus aurea*) and which is said to be peculiar to extreme south Florida, having been found no

where else in the world, though I would not be surprised if it is yet found to be a native of some part of Central America, where the varieties of ficus are very numerous, and to be one of the Gulf Stream emigrants; however this may be, it certainly is a very beautiful tree and destined, as I believe, to become a very popular plant for greenhouse decoration north, as few plants surpass it in beauty. There is in Dade county at least two species or varieties; the most common is the type of the species, *F. aurea*, the foliage of which in color and shape is similar to the Indian rubber tree (*F. elastica*) only smaller in size. The trees grow to an immense size at times, some I know of are fully seventy feet in height with a great girth of trunk and magnificent heads of foliage. The fruit or figs of this variety are small, about the size of a currant, of a bright scarlet, and while eatable are insipid and rather tasteless, though they form favorite food for the birds. The other variety—which I have never seen described—is much rarer. I generally found them growing near the brink of some sink in the rocks or at the edge of a rocky hammock; the leaves are much larger in size than the common sort and of a very dark rich green color, and produced more luxuriantly than those of the other sort. The fruit also was two or three times the size of that of the common type and of a dark purple color, and much better to eat, in fact, when thoroughly ripe were quite palatable, somewhat like flavor of the common fig of the gardens. This variety is a much finer ornamental tree than the common sort. The *Ficus aurea* if growing in a moist place, sends down from the trunk and lower branches great quantities of air roots; and in this connection I want to describe what I believe to be the most wonderful specimen of tree growth in the United States, certainly nothing similar to it can be found, and I have never seen anything in the shape of a tree that was so wonderful. It is a large specimen of *Ficus aurea*, and grows in a rocky hammock in the "Hunting Grounds," and though photographs have been taken of it I do not think a description of the tree has ever been printed.

The original trunk of the tree grew to about fifteen feet in height before it branched, then it

divided into two branches, that grew on opposite sides of the trunk and in an almost perfectly horizontal position, to the length of ten or twelve feet each from the trunk, when they assumed an upright position. Each of these two branches have sent down two roots, which have taken root and have grown until they are of about the same size as the original trunk. Another peculiar thing about these trunks is their shape, they are not round but are flattened, about fifteen inches through the thickest way, and eight or ten inches the other, all of much the same shape; the longest diameters of the trunk, run at right angles to the branches above them.

The tree has a large head of foliage and forms one of the wonders of nature, and could very properly and appropriately be called the American banyan.

The rare and so-called "new" palm of Florida, the Pseudo-phoenix Sargenti, is said to be found nowhere else in the world, but Mrs. Hester P. Walker (now dead), daughter of Dr. Henry Perrine, who lost his life endeavoring to introduce rare plants into Florida, told me positively that it was "introduced by Dr. Henry Perrine from Central America long years before Professor Sargent ever saw it." The largest specimen of this palm I have seen was on Mr. Filers' place on Elliott's Key; it was about twenty feet in height with a smooth trunk. I do not consider it a very beautiful palm, the leaves have a ragged appearance that does not add to its beauty. Another member of the palm family, that I have never found anywhere but in the Bay, is one of which I am not sure of the name. It answers tolerably in color and shape of the leaves to the description of the Silver Thatch, *Thrinax argentea*; but instead of being a tall growing palm, is extremely dwarf, never forming a trunk of more than eighteen inches, generally less, which is almost covered with the sheathing bases of the petioles and is never over two or three inches in diameter. It is always found growing in the pine forests among the Saw Palmetto, *Serenoa serrulata*, and is more common at the lower part of the Bay than farther North. The petioles are of medium length and slender, and the leaves are palmate, much divided, and of medium size, of a light green above, and bright silvery white beneath, glistening like silver in the sun, when disturbed by a breeze. It produces early in the spring clusters of bloom six inches to one foot in length, creamy white, and very fragrant; these are succeeded by large spikes of fruit, the clumps of which are larger than any palm native to the state, being two or three times as large as those of the Cabbage palmetto and are of a very bright purplish red, very beautiful and remain on the plant for many weeks. This would be one of the grandest plants for pot culture imaginable; its dwarf habit, and beautiful foliage, combined with the flowers and fruit make a grand combination.

Another rare sight is an old field at the "Hunting Ground" of some five or six acres of rich rocky hammocks, that was formerly planted in bannanas, and truck, but for some cause the owner neglected it one year. This was just what the hosts of young moonvine plants, *Ipomoea noctiphyton*, had been waiting for, and it was not long until they had complete possession

of the field; vines of an enormous length clambered over the bushes, covered the bare ground, rooting wherever a joint happened to touch the ground, and hung in festoons from the trees, in the moist intricate tangle. So thick were they that outside of the regular path the only way one could get through was to take out a knife and cut out a road, and the consequence was that many a fine bunch of bananas lay and rotted, for want of some one to gather them.

This field presented a most wonderfully beautiful sight at certain times of the year, before sun rise, being covered with myriads of the lovely white fragrant blossoms—a field of moon-flowers which bid defiance to the owner, whose only hope was to wait until some unusually hard frost came and killed the vines, when he could burn the mass of vegetation as soon as dry. I was there three years and the frost had not come, and in all probability the moonvines still occupy the field and continue to increase in size each year. I know of no plant that is a greater pest, when well established, than is the moonvine in its native country.

MARTIN BENSON.

THE SWEET PEA DISEASE.

M. R. HUTCHINS, the noted sweet pea grower, has returned from his visit to England and reports that they do not have the disease there which sometimes attacks the crops of the fine named sorts in this country. In a late number of the *American Florist* Mr. Hutchins tells something of the sweet pea show at Springfield, Mass., of his visit to England, and his general interest in sweet peas. In regard to the disease of sweet peas Mr. H. has something to say which supplements his remarks in his letter, as published in our July number, page 139:

The life of this sweet pea enthusiasm depends on the success of amateurs, and the blight is proving a serious drawback with them. Since it has come I am glad I had it in serious form this year. I get many a wailing letter. We cannot count on its being less serious next year. Our only hope is to combat it and conquer it. It does not attack the root, nor the stalk above ground, but just that part of the stalk between the seed and the surface of the ground. Just that five inches of the stalk where the soil has been filled in gets shiny, rots, and leaves only the woody thread. The plant may be six inches high or three feet high, it suddenly wilts, and the mischief is done beyond repair before you have notice. It soon turns yellow. Some of my vines that were pretty well along threw out roots above the diseased part and started to grow again. I fear that the fungus spores are in the ground ready to multiply the mischief. I have depended thus far on trying to avoid the trouble by keeping the upper soil free from rank matter. In this neighborhood both clay and sandy loam show the disease. Changing the location seems to be an advantage, but not a sure remedy. I have almost feared it would be useless to beat against the popular tide of disappointment in trying to encourage the culture of the improved varieties. Mr. Eckford says "Try the sulphur treatment." To do this we shall have to cover the seed lightly, and shortly after they come up give them a dusting or two of sulphur. Perhaps Bordeaux mixture sprayed on before any soil is filled in around the stalk may forestall the danger. The disease is unknown in England, neither does the Pacific coast have it. Since I have visited Mr. Eckford and seen the beautiful things he has in store for us I feel that this blight is a bitter foe, and must be met without delay and with summary treatment.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK

Sweet Peas.—Night-blooming Cereus.

I must write and tell you how pleased I am with my sweet peas. I have two rows fifty feet long and I never saw anything blossom equal to them; I pick a large bouquet every day and give them to my neighbors and they all say they never saw such handsome colors; I am much pleased with them.

Do you have anything to do with the night-blooming cereus? If so, will you please tell me what care they need. I have one four years old; the first blossom it has borne opened a few evenings ago, and was beautiful. There were a dozen or more people in to see it. Does it need a rest now? MRS. A. A. W.
Lenox Dale, Mass.

We are always pleased to hear of success with plants or flowers. We have had many letters this season telling how well the sweet peas have done.

The night-blooming cereus does not need rest yet, but as the weather gets cooler gradually reduce its supply of water. During winter it should have but little water,—only enough to to retain moisture in the soil, and it should be kept in a warm place.

Roses.—Pansies.

1—I have a Clothilde Soupert rose, purchased of you last year. It did very little until this spring when I re-potted it in an 8-inch pot. The soil is woods dirt and old cow manure. It is growing like a weed but does not blossom. Why not?

2—How much must I protect my La France and American Beauty roses this winter? Would it be safe to leave a Bridesmaid and a Marechal Neil outdoors?

3—My pansies are dying of some disease. The leaves turn yellow, beginning at the ground. The blossoms decrease in size. I have found a good many lice on them and some spiders. Never had pansies act so in the open ground. The seed was Giant Trimardeau, purchased of you, and the plants were gorgeous until this trouble commenced. One plant bears blossoms which have two extra petals in the center. Have used kerosene emulsion on the plants. My sweet peas are troubled with the blight described in the Magazine and the appearance of the pansies is such that I am inclined to think the trouble is the same. MRS. E. S.
Marcellus, Mich.

1—The large pot of rich soil favors a great growth of the Clothilde Soupert, but it will bloom all right a little later.

2—Bridesmaid and Marechal Neil cannot be safely wintered outside, and the other varieties mentioned should have the best protection that can possibly be given.

3—Use sulpho-tobacco soap, making a solution and throwing it on with a sprayer, or what is better, a garden syringe. Also syringe at least twice a week with clear water in order to keep down red spider.

Pinks.—Insects on Roses.

I shall be greatly obliged if you will answer a few questions. Last season in September I sent to you for your hardy collection of pinks. I set them out with as much care as I could. They looked well all winter, and when spring came they began to dry up, and although a few clumps put out some blossoms they were not fully open (a magenta and a white) and both plant and blossom were insignificant. We had an abundance of rain and they were watered, but to no purpose. The soil is loose and sandy, though it has been well manured. What is the matter? There is not one of the collection left now to tell the tale. What can I do to have pinks?

Also what can I do to get rid of green flies on roses, and the tiny red spider on the under side of leaf? I have tried tobacco in various forms, but with no success. MRS. A. T. S.
Calumet, Mich.

Last winter was a severe one on all newly

transplanted stuffs, and although the plants did not die outright by the cold they were injured too severely to recover. We advise spring planting in cold regions.

We can advise nothing better for green fly on roses than tobacco soap. A very little of it dissolved in water and put on the plants with a syringe or a sprinkler that will wet the leaves of the plants all over, under as well as upper side, will surely kill them.

The red spider can be kept off by frequently spraying or syringing with clear water. The red spider cannot live when frequently moistened. A good syringe well used will prevent red spider.

Columbian Raspberry.—Other Fruits.

I think I will have to tell you about my Columbian raspberry, bought of you this spring. I received it by mail and set it out before the freeze in May; when I got up that cold May morning and found everything frozen, I thought that my Columbian was gone, but I found it all right, not a leaf hurt. I expected no fruit from it this summer, but was happily disappointed. At the present writing the small bush is loaded; I counted ninety-five berries on it at one time. The berry is delicious and so large that it will make a very profitable market berry, and we have had a severe drought. But nothing seemed to hurt it. It grew thriftily right along. In setting it out I had a hole dug three feet deep and large around, and put a few bushels of manure in the bottom, then put the richest soil I could find on top, and set out my plant, so that it would find something for its roots to feed on as they grew. I think a dozen plants would keep a small family in fruit. I will tell you a secret if you won't tell—I never got anything of Vick but what was just as represented.

Would apricots or quinces be hardy in northern Illinois?

What plum, beside Chickasaw, would do well here?

Can you tell anything about the tree blackberry?
Winslow, Ill. S. B.

Not much need be expected of apricots in northern Illinois, but quinces will do well.

The following list of plums will be found all right:

Damson,	Bradshaw,
Lombard,	Duane's Purple,
German Prune,	McLaughlin,
Green Gage.	Jefferson.

We cannot advise the so-called Tree Blackberry.

REPORTS ON HARDY ROSES.

A very instructive communication appears in a late number of *Gardening* in relation to roses. It is from F. C. Seavey regarding the roses on the Wooded Island at Jackson Park, Chicago. The rose plants which were on the ground at the World's Fair in 1893 were taken up in the fall and heeled in for the winter, and then planted out in beds in the spring of 1894.

Early in last December, after the first snow had melted, the roses were turned down to the ground, fastened there securely with wire pins, and carefully covered to the depth of six inches with fallen leaves that were held in place by brush, the stalks of plants and similar material.

The beds of Moss roses, of Madame Plantier and of Rugosa, with its hybrid, Mme. G. Bruant, "were left upright and protected at the roots only, with covering of leaves, and they came through all right."

When the roses were uncovered in late spring the wood of certain varieties was green to the tips although the winter was severe, and while there was an unusual amount of snow, the coldest weather occurred when the ground was bare. While the roses look well and have done well

as a whole, there is a marked difference between varieties, some having done especially well and some proven worthless under the conditions named. The one that stands out distinctly as the best all-around rose of any color is Mrs. John Laing, and the one that is most unsatisfactory in every way is American Beauty. The last seems quite worthless here as an out-of-door rose. Next to Mrs. Laing in hardiness, thriftiness and floriferousness comes Marshall P. Wilder with Gen. Jacqueminot a close third. Almost equalling these are Earl of Dufferin and Alfred Colomb. Next in excellence, and all have done well, come the following H. R. varieties:

DEEP CRIMSON.

Prince Camille de Rohan, Earl of Dufferin,
Jean Liabaud.

CRIMSON.

Gen. Jacqueminot, Fisher Holmes.

CARMINE AND VERMILLION.

Marshall P. Wilder, Alfred Colomb.

ROSE.

Anne de Diesbach, Paul Neyron,
John Hopper, La Reine.

PINK.

Mrs. John Laing, Baroness Rothschild,
Comtesse de Serenye, Jeanne Dickson.

WHITE.

Merveille de Lyon, Mabel Morrison.

Of these Mrs. John Laing, as before said, is easily the leader, keeping perfectly under the covering of leaves, blooming well the first of the season (although not as profusely as either Wilder or "Jack") and showing for a second crop of flowers a fat, healthy bud on every one of numerous thrifty new shoots.

Marshall P. Wilder is also producing a good second crop of splendid flowers, and continuous flowering is a noticeable characteristic of Earl of Dufferin, Jeannie Dickson and Alfred Colomb. Several others are preparing to bloom again, but those named give the best promise.

* * The Rugosa roses have done splendidly and are very satisfactory; the hybrid, Mme. G. Bruant, being the best bloomer and quite as hardy as the Rugosas proper. These were not turned down and neither were the plants of Mme Plantier nor the moss roses. Their beds were covered with about six inches of leaves held in place by an open covering of longer material just as described in connection with the plants that were pinned to the ground. Of the Moss roses, Capt. John Ingram, purplish crimson, and Comtesse de Murinais, white, bloomed best, and in the Perpetual Moss class Mme. Salet, light rose, and Blanche Moreau, white, are most satisfactory. In the arrangement of the Moss roses the branching Comtesse de Murinais occupies the center of a bed that is bordered with the more upright, trim plants of Blanche Moreau.

In climbing June roses Pride of Washington is the best, being full of flowers on the living wood left from last year, but it is not hardy except when all of the wood is protected. The plants are all sending out strong vigorous shoots that if protected this winter, will make the garden far more lovely in June of '96 than it has been this year. Baltimore Bell must be turned to the ground and well protected or it will get winter killed. Queen of the Prairie blooms less well than Pride of Washington and is rather less hardy here. * * Clothilde Soupert, that has so many good qualities, has not proved hardy,—protected like the others it still froze back badly. Rosa Wichuraiana, the Japanese creeper, wintered well. * * The Tea roses suffered the most from the cold. The hardiest and in fact the only varieties that did not winter kill badly under their blanket of leaves are Gloire de Dijon (which is far and away the strongest grower of its class in the garden), and Reine Marie Henriette. * * Gloire de Dijon is blooming continuously and is thrifty. The flowers are not as large as those grown under glass, but they are, nevertheless, charming in color and very fragrant.

SUB-IRRIGATION OF SWEET PEAS.

NEXT to the pleasure of making a garden in the spring, planting the seeds and watching their development from death-like sleep to life, and the growth, blossoming and fruiting of your plants, may perhaps be ranked the enjoyment of anticipating this happiness during the coming winter. When the long, cold days become tiresome, and it sometimes seems as if the world were now really dead and never could revive from such a long burial in ice, we long ardently for the spring season when the waters may, as we hope, run again, and the verdure return, and the dogwood put on its white bloom, and the willows by the creek and the poplars by the road gradually open their tender buds and take on the light yellowish-green tint that first marks the re-awakening of nature.

As wife and I sat by the embers one night conjuring up this season of resurrection, and planning what vegetables and fruits and flowers we would have (God willing) a few months hence, and thinking it was time to write to Vick for seeds, says she:

"I intend to have a lot of sweet peas if you will turn the trellis round from east and west to north and south. Grown in that way I really believe we shall be more successful, even in our dry soil, though the lack of moisture is, I think, the principal cause of failure with everybody in this locality."

"Why," said I, "with a city water supply should there be a lack of water on these flowers except from a lack of energy in putting it on?"

"There has been no want of determination and activity," she replied, "but still, on such a soil, underlaid with gravel, it is almost more than sweet peas are worth, as greatly as they are prized and enjoyed by all ranks and conditions of people, to supply them with all the water they need. The wife of the old German florist told me that she succeeds so well only by hours of application to the hose every day; and of course amateurs will not devote so much labor to the result, but most of them easily tire, and go to the old woman and buy. The trouble is in weak roots, I think. Much use of the hose makes the ground solid. Unless, therefore, it is continually forked over, the water does not penetrate far enough to wet and nourish the roots."

Pondering this a little, I proposed to her that I might bring a little of my own profession of engineering to bear on the problem, and in requital of her gift of flowers would carry water to the roots of the peas with certainty. And now that we have realized our hopes, and been very successful in the experiment, we have concluded to send our experience to your charming little Magazine for the possible benefit of some reader; not that what we have done may not have been done again and again, as Solomon says, but only that we do not know it to be so; and also, because a repetition of such a thing in such a journal has its advantages, inasmuch as new readers will thus be accommodated from month to month. All our technical journals are, and must be, conducted on this principle, of

variety through endless repetition, and they are the more valuable for it.

Well, then, I did turn the trellis round to stand north and south, so that the vines might receive the sun more directly all day long. But the more essential thing consisted in laying a row of tiles lengthwise under the trellis. Ordinary three inch unglazed drainage tiles, one foot long, were used, and laid level, with their tops sixteen inches below the level surface of the ground selected for the peas. At one end this row of tiles was connected with the surface of the garden by a curved tile turning upward a quarter of a circle, and left open, while the other end of the row was simply stopped with a piece of broken glass laid against it. The trench was then filled with good soil. With this preparation the peas were planted on both sides of the trellis. As they grew and required water, the hose was from time to time turned into the open end of the tiling and allowed to saturate the soil. At first the full stream is to be turned on till the pipe fills, after which the flow is to be adjusted to the point that will just hold it in that condition, which a slight pressure will do. In this way, you will observe, we secure a constant head of about eighteen inches of water, pressing through all the joints of the tiling (the tiling being simply laid end to end without mortar or cement, as in land draining), and this slight pressure gives sufficient head not only to soak the ground below the tiles and on either side of them, but also to saturate it nearly to the surface, thus of course reaching every fibre of root to perfection. If a greater head were desired, as for a large plan of tiling instead of the single row twenty feet long here described, it may of course be had by carrying the open end one or two lengths of tile above the surface, cementing the joints of this vertical part (for which the vitrified pipe will answer), or else by using for this upright, or standpipe, a short section of cast-iron pipe. And where there is not a city water supply, other means of filling the tiles must be resorted to,—perhaps a common pail.

Every few days we thus supply the pea roots with moisture and with food dissolved from the

saturated soil, meantime supplementing the rainfall with such amount of top watering as appears judicious. And the net result is, we have the most thrifty and generously bearing vines of any lovers of sweet peas "on the Hill." The vines are very tall and strong, the leafage dark and rich, the blooming so profuse as to make it a labor to dispose of the flowers as fast as they come; only it is pleasurable to send large bouquets daily to persons so unfortunate as not to possess pea vines of their own.

E. E. WOODMAN.

BEGONIAS.

MANY people entertain the mistaken idea that Begonias are difficult to manage, when, in fact, they are of the easiest culture, growing in an ordinary sitting-room with the same treatment as a geranium. Many varieties, especially the Rex, are grown exclusively for their foliage, although the flowers are very pretty. The drooping panicles of bright coral of the Rubra are very fine.

Good rich soil, with leaf-mold, is the thing for begonias. They must have good drainage, for, although they require plenty of water to keep the soil moist, it must not stand on their roots. Do not be afraid of showering the most velvety varieties if they are kept in the shade until they are dry, for the sun shining on the moist leaves will cause them to decay.

Begonias grow readily from seed. As the pistillate and staminate flowers develop at different times in the flower-cluster, they do not fertilize naturally. But as the process is a simple one, you will have no trouble in ripening as much seed as you desire. A tiny brush, such as is used for painting, is just the thing to collect the ripened pollen from the stamens and transfer it to the pistil.

Begonia seed is very fine, and must be sown with care or it will be so deeply covered that the tiny plants will be unable to reach the light. Prepare the soil by making it as fine as possible, press it down firmly, and water until the earth is quite moist, or wet. Scatter the seed upon the top of the soil and cover the jar with a glass placing it in a sunny window. It will need no more water until the plants are up, when there will be no trouble, as the little plants grow finely.

HEPATICA.



Ladies' Delight

"A year ago my hair began turning gray and falling out, and though I tried ever so many things to prevent it, I obtained no satisfaction until I used Ayer's Hair Vigor. After using one bottle of this preparation my hair ceased falling out and was restored to its natural color."—Mrs. HERZMANN, 359 East 68th st., New York City.

AYER'S HAIR VIGOR.

Ayer's The Only Sarsaparilla

ADMITTED AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1895.

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200,000

Average Monthly Circulation.

The Seed Department at Washington.

It is very gratifying to note that the Seed Division, of the Department of Agriculture is to be closed on the 1st of October next. The purchase of seeds and their distribution by the government was originally intended as a means of disseminating through the country rare and valuable seeds which could not or would not be otherwise attained. The law authorizing their purchase defines them as "Rare and uncommon to the country, or such as can be made more profitable by frequent change from one part of our country to another." In pursuance of the law the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in April last, issued proposals for bids for seeds of the character mentioned.

Only three bids were made and these were rejected for the reason that the character of the seeds offered did not meet the legal requirements. Thereupon Secretary Morton announced that there would be no purchase of seeds by the department during the fiscal year, 1896, and has directed that the affairs of the Seed Division be closed on the first day of October next. In accordance with these instructions the Chief of the Division of Seeds sent to the Secretary the following letter:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 25, 1895.

HON. J. STERLING MORTON, Secretary of Agriculture.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 25th, advising me that the work of the Seed Division would be discontinued on October 1st. In accordance with your decision, as expressed in the closing paragraph, I will place my resignation as Chief of the Seed Division in your hands on the date named, with a complete report of all work performed.

I congratulate you upon the action taken in this matter, as I have been fully convinced since my first examination of the work of the Division that no reasonable excuse could be offered in

behalf of its continuance, and so reported in my first annual report.

Very respectfully,
M. E. FAGAN,
Chief of Division of Seeds.

Thus for the present, at least, the worse than useless expenditures for seeds by the government have ceased, and let us hope not to be renewed, unless in strict accordance with the spirit of the law. It is better that the law be repealed, for commercial changes and charges in transportation and mail matter have produced conditions which no longer sustain the reasons for its original passage. Secretary Morton and the superintendent are both to be congratulated for the result.

Sweet Peas at Springfield.

A show of sweet peas was held at Springfield, Mass., on the last two days of July. In its notice of the exhibition the *Springfield Republican* said:

It is a beautiful display of a beautiful flower that has been cultivated by experts into diversified lines until the blossoms are rich and heavy, no longer the fragile pink and white creations that seemed born for a day. And the colors have, by a process of breeding and selection, been diversified so that a Columbia is produced with blue and white standards and red and white wings, a truly patriotic flower. Perhaps no more striking instances of development have been shown than in the production of the pure whites and different shades of lavender, and clusters of these combined rival the choicest La France roses as a decoration for a lady's boudoir.

The full account of the show by the journal named was sent to us by Mr. W. A. Phelps, of Lee, Mass., with a letter saying:

In April of this year I placed with you an order for sweet peas, some sixty-five varieties in all. They have done remarkably well indeed; only one in the lot not coming true to name. To show you what success I have had with these I enclose clipping from the *Springfield Republican* as it may be of interest to you.

From the account given it appears that Mr. Phelps took four premiums, having made only five entries. The premiums taken were for a display of not less than twenty-five varieties; fifty sprays of any variety; display of new varieties not catalogued before 1894, and display of new varieties not catalogued before 1895.

Such results must be quite satisfactory to Mr. Phelps, and certainly creditable to his skill as a grower.

The Rathbun Blackberry.

A visit to the grounds of Mr. Rathbun, of Chaataqua country, was made on the last day of July, to see his new blackberry in bearing. The plants after having their young growth destroyed by the frosts of May had apparently recovered and presented a fine appearance.

The new growth at the base of the plants was filled with berries of large size. For a year of frost disasters the appearance of the plantation was all that could be desired. The fruit was being picked and sent to market. It was picked into the common-sized strawberry box, thirty-six of these filling a crate. They found ready purchasers at \$3.60 a crate—10 cents a basket. Such fruit would command a first-class price in any market and with any competition.

There is no question about the high quality of this berry, which is superior to anything of

the kind yet produced—soft throughout, or without a hard core, small seeds which are scarcely noticeable, juicy and with a peculiarly rich aroma. The berries are very large, jet black with a high lustre, and sufficiently firm to carry well to market. A plantation of the Rathbun blackberry does not present the appearance of the tall growing varieties like the Erie, Kittatinny, Minnewaski, etc., for the reason that the shoots of the plants droop over, bending toward the ground, after the manner of the blackcap raspberry. It is certainly a very superior variety and worthy of attention by berry growers.

Disease of Sweet Peas.

It appears from the statements of Mr. Hutchins, given on page 169, that the sweet pea disease is unknown in England and California. It is improbable, then, that the disease is the result of lowered vitality caused by high culture or cross-breeding, as has been supposed. We do not know the circumstances under which the various cases of disease have developed, and so do not form a theory of the cause, but venturing an opinion founded on general principles, we believe that if the peas are planted in moderately rich soil, without stuffing trenches full of half decayed stable manure, but supplying commercial fertilizers if it is thought necessary, there will be little or no trace of disease. In any ordinary good garden soil even a commercial fertilizer is not needed. Our advice is merely simple, clean culture.

Double-Flowered Mock Orange.

A late number of the *Journal of Horticulture* notices and gives an illustration of a new variety of double-flowered Philadelphus called Boule d'Argent. In regard to it that journal says:

The plant is of the same habit of growth as single relatives, but only attains a height of about two feet. The growths are clothed with double white blossoms of good size and substance.

In addition it remarks that it is of undoubted value. We have already in cultivation at least four varieties of double-flowered syringas, and two of these are dwarf in habit, but neither of them are free blooming. The other two varieties of larger growth bloom freely. Judging from the illustration it is presumed that this low growing variety is at the same time a free bloomer. If this is so, it will be a very desirable shrub.

It is Not What We Say

But what Hood's Sarsaparilla Does that tells the story. Thousands of voluntary testimonials prove that

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Is the Only
True Blood Purifier

Prominently in the public eye today,

Hood's Pills the after-dinner pill and family cathartic. 25c.

HARDY APPLES.

INVESTIGATIONS have been going on for a few years past relating to hardy apples adapted to the extremes of temperature in the north and northwestern sections of the United States. Among the older sorts of apples of American origin which have proved hardy are the Fameuse, Wealthy, Walbridge, St. Lawrence, Macintosh Red, Ben Davis, Pewaukee, Canada Peach, and some others. All these are considered reliable growers and bearers in the northeastern district.

It is found that a large proportion of the kinds which are successfully grown in the east do not do well west of the great lakes, except in some favored localities.

In the northern part of Wisconsin and Minnesota growers are compelled to rely on varieties derived from the Siberian crabs. For this reason the Agricultural Bureau instituted investigations some years ago for testing the adaptability of Russian and other fruits to the climate of the northwest section of the country west of the great lakes. Some 350 varieties of Russian fruits have been imported at various times, and among these thirty varieties have been found adapted to our northern climate.

One complaint made respecting the Russian apples as a whole, is that in the latitude of southern central Iowa,—to which they come mainly from a region lying from 8° to 12° farther north,—the removal to a more southern and longer summer so hastens the maturity of the fruit that the most of them become late summer and autumn fruits, failing partially, if not wholly, as a winter supply.

One of the most hardy trees in the central portion of Maine is the Canada Peach, but it adds one more to the early autumn apples of which we already possess a plenty. The fruit is a clear transparent white, medium size, in shape much like the Porter. The trees bear young and profusely under good cultivation. The fruit is beautiful for the table, and when its beauty as a dessert fruit becomes more widely known it may find considerable favor in our markets.

The Yellow Transparent is another of the new sorts; a summer variety and of good flavor, and as far as I know is not infected by the *trypteta*, so destructive to most of the summer sorts of apples here in Maine.

L. F. ABBOTT.

If Baby is Cutting Teeth,

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

LE MONDE MODERNE.

The June number of this handsome French magazine has been duly received. It is a fine specimen of art in magazine work, both in its engravings and typography. The articles relate to a great variety of topics of interest, and we cannot recommend too highly this monthly to all readers of the French language. Each number is complete in itself. The price is 21 francs a year. The address of the manager is M. le Directeur du Monde Moderne, 5 Rue Saint Benoit, Paris, France.

SMILAX.

THERE is no reason why one cannot raise smilax in a window, and have it as nice as that grown in a greenhouse, if one is willing to give it the attention and care it needs. A plant can be bought of a florist at any time, or a dry bulb be obtained in the summer, which is their season of rest.

The bulbs are very peculiar looking and it often puzzles people not used to them to know



SMILAX.

which side up to plant them. Often they are started enough so the little sprouts can be seen, but if not, you can do as a florist once told me to do; he said: "Plant what you would naturally suppose to be the top, down."

It is a plant that needs a great deal of water

in its growing season. It also needs its foliage sprinkled often. It is a prey to the red spider if neglected, and the spraying frees them from that pest, as well as keeping the foliage in a healthy condition.

If possible place the box or pot where it need not be disturbed all winter. By doing this, strings may be placed for each vine to cling to. They do much better so and also are in better shape for cutting. Florists always train them upright on strings.

I have sometimes trained smilax on a rack stuck in the pot, but the vines tangle and cling around each other so that it is almost impossible to cut a spray without tearing all the rest in pieces.

Toward spring the vines begin to blossom. The flowers are so small that one has to search for them, but the odor is often apparent before the blossom is seen. The flowers are nearly white, and the fragrance reminds me somewhat of mignonette. After the blossom a small berry or seed ball forms, and when this is ripe the vine gradually dies down and takes a season of rest. When the foliage begins to turn yellow do not water the plant much, but let it die down gradually. The bulbs can be left in the earth, or taken out and stored away till July or August; then repot them in rich soil and they will be ready for another season's growth. The seeds may be planted, as they grow quite readily, and the best season for growing is from December to February.

Few know the history of smilax, but it is in reality a very old plant. It was first introduced in 1702, but did not become popular. It was not until twenty-five years ago that it was much thought of or cultivated to any extent. Since then it has been in great demand, as we have no other green so beautiful and lasting. Many greenhouses in the large cities grow nothing else.

Z.

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THE CODETIA.

THE godetia, which is a native of California and Oregon, has become one of the favorites among annual flowering plants. Several species of it grow on the western coast and these have been crossed and re-crossed until now there are at least thirty varieties in the trade. All of them are free growing and free blooming plants, and continue to produce their flowers during a long season. They do not need rich soil, as in that case the tendency is to make too rank a growth with fewer flowers. If the seeds are started in the spring in the house or frame, and the young plants set out early in a piece of poor or only moderately rich ground they will make a satisfactory growth and give an abundance of bloom.

Duchess of Albany, Lady Albemarle, and

plenty when the fierce heat of summer arrives."

Whitneyi is of dwarf, compact habit, with flowers of a rich carmine.

Bijou is another dwarf growing variety having satiny white flowers with a dark rose colored spot at the base. The flowers are two inches or more in diameter and their brilliancy and abundance make the plants very showy. The flowers are excellent for cutting and last several days in water.

The plants can also be recommended for pots for the window or conservatory, blooming the latter part of winter and early in spring. For this purpose it is best to sow the seeds about mid-summer, or the first of August, and, after transplanting and a few weeks' growth in the open ground, transfer them to pots and care for them as house plants.



GODETIA.

Whitneyi are favorite varieties. Duchess of Albany is pure white with a satiny lustre; Lady Albemarle is a deep brilliant crimson with a white center; it is very handsome and the flowers are produced through a season of many weeks or from two to three months—but this is characteristic of them all. Soon after this variety was introduced a writer in a gardening journal gave the following testimony concerning it:

"Were it of a tender nature it would still be worthy of high praise, but it is not; on the contrary, it comes up with the greatest freedom in the open ground, is of a free, vigorous growth, forming itself into a compact bush of foliage, and covering itself with flowers of rich and brilliant hue. Like all annuals it demands a free, fairly rich, but not too rich soil, and delights in a good depth of mellow earth, where the roots can ramble freely and pump up moisture in

FRUITS FOR FOOD.

Under this title the *Rural Californian* publishes an essay by Mrs. A. C. Pickett, read before the E. S. R. Horticultural Club, and giving an account of some of the experiments and conclusions therefrom made by W. S. Manning, of the Royal Botanical Society of London, and Dr. Hilgard of the California Experiment Station. The following is an extract:

Mr. Manning claims to have tested the fruit and nut diet for over five years and finds it more than satisfactory. He says when chemistry teaches us that starch cannot be assimilated by the system until converted into glucose, which is the sugar of fruits, why not take this glucose direct from the ripe fruits instead of burdening our digestive organs with the transformation? He urges us to try at least one fruit meal a day, and at the other meals eat fruit first, claiming that ripe fresh fruit has just the

right proportion of solid to liquids, the right proportion of acids, of salts which are indispensable for feeding the nerves, and of sweets to make it an ideal food, drink and physic for maintaining perfect health, especially through the summer,—grapes, green figs and sweet apples being among the best, and almost all-sufficient food in the hottest weather, while nuts, which are rich in carbon and nitrogen, become invaluable during colder weather.

Dr. Hilgard's analyses of fruits corroborate many of Mr. Manning's statements. According to Dr. Hilgard's tables, green figs and raisin grapes rank highest in food values. Prunes, plums, apricots, pears, peaches, etc., are very nearly of equal value. The strawberry is the richest of all fruits in protein, which is the only nutrient containing nitrogen.

Marion Harlan says, "Never wash strawberries or raspberries that are intended to be eaten as fresh fruit. If they are so gritty as to require this process, keep them off the table. You will certainly ruin their flavor beyond repair if you wash them, and as certainly induce instant fermentation, and endanger the coats of the eaters' stomachs, if after profaning the exquisite delicacy of the fruit you complete the evil by covering them with sugar and leave them to leak their lives sourly away for one or two hours. Put them on the table in glass dishes, piling high and lightly, serve with powdered sugar and cream, if possible and desired. It may not be the most economical, but it is the most healthful and pleasant and decent way."

Sugar, the principal carbohydrate varies from 19-7-10 percent in the flesh of the French prune to as low as one 65-100 per cent. in the lemon, the orange having from 7-1-10 to 14 per cent. in different varieties. In the orange tables given, proportion of sugar, acid, etc., varies greatly with crops of different years and different times of picking. Apricots are 12 per cent. sugar; figs, nectarines, all prunes and grapes are upward of fifteen per cent.

CURING AND FEEDING HUNGARIAN GRASS.

Cut Hungarian grass in six weeks or a little more from the date of seeding. The seed should not be allowed to form or ripen. Five or six days after the first heads show, or when the crop is fairly headed, it should be cut. It makes better hay then, especially for milch cows. If left to stand too long the stalks become woody and seed shells badly. The hay is about as hard to cure as heavy clover and much harder than timothy or red top. Hence I have usually mowed it when very heavy, some afternoon a day or two after a storm has cleared away and when the prospects are good for fine weather. Then after the dew is off next morning, turn and stir it thoroughly with a tedder or fork, and rake and cock about 4 o'clock if the day has been bright and hot; otherwise leave in winrow if there is no danger of rain. After the dew is off next day, open out the cocks or bunch the winrows into moderate sized forkfuls, and loosen each a little without tearing to pieces, and begin to draw in an hour or two if it seems dry enough. You can judge of it as of any other hay. If there is a very heavy crop it will take more time and care in making.

The chemical analysis shows a feeding value for flesh and muscle almost exactly equal to that of timothy. Still I should not advise feeding it to horses. Timothy is certainly better for them. Even for cows or stock cattle I would rather feed one feed a day of clover or meadow hay. The Hungarian hay seems to have too strong a diuretic or urinate effect if made the sole food.—W. I. Chamberlain in *Farm and Home*.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

A BITTER-SWEET VINE.—Not the *Solanum Dulcamara*, with its white or purple flowers, scarlet berries and strong smelling foliage, but the climbing bitter-sweet, wax work or staff tree, *Celastrus scandens*. Fifteen or eighteen years ago I set it at the end of the porch, making a lattice to sustain it. An ampelopsis was fastening itself to the house near by—this made a ladder for the bitter-sweet and both were soon up to the ridge of the roof. Fearing the great weight might tear the creeper from its hold I drove a staple into the cornice and drew a light chain around two or three of the main stems of the bitter-sweet, and it was never larger and more flourishing than now. It has six or eight stems, the largest nine inches round, and its new shoots rise through the mass of ampelopsis upon the ridge, twenty feet from the ground. One second-story window is entirely out of sight from the outside, and the other is pretty well covered, though partly with ampelopsis. It has had no culture or manure. No drouth ever made its epormous expanse of foliage flag; no doubt its roots reach the drain under the cellar wall. It never has borne many berries. The genus *Celastrus* is diæceous and polygamous and plants must be from bearing vines if berries are desired.

AMPELOPSIS AND AMPELOPSIS.—Here in the woods are two species, or at least two well marked varieties of this creeper, which I will call the large and small leaved ampelopsis. The first has leaves which are strongly notched and ribbed, very dark green and highly varnished above. I have just measured a leaf, perhaps not the largest, which is thirteen inches from tip to tip of its leaflets, with a petiole (leaf-stalk) nine inches long. Its shoots are much larger and coarser, its foliage much more massive and shining than those of the other sort. The small leaved kind has slender shoots bearing the smallest possible leaves at the tip, but it climbs as high as the other and seems to cling tighter to walls. I have a notion it colors better in autumn, but this may be all "in my eye."

From the published descriptions I should think the small leaved kind most like the Japan species, which I have never seen. Which kind is the best? That depends; to have both is best in my opinion. For twelve or more years I have had, so to speak, a sod of ampelopsis on my roof six feet or so across. People say every now and then, "You had better tear off that vine, it will rot the shingles." But I think it a protection instead; I wish the whole roof was covered with it.

ANTHEMIS TINCTORIA.—There is, I believe, a double variety of this hardy herbaceous perennial, but I will write of the single kind, with its golden flowers. The plant is almost ever-green, starting into fresh growth very early. The foliage is finely cut and feathery, of a sage green tint. The lens shows the under side to be thick with white hairs, while granular meal covers the upper surface. It forms a bush two feet or so high and wide, with scores and hundreds of flowers in bloom at once on long, naked stems rising high above the foliage. The flowers are an inch or more across, with many nar-

row bright golden yellow or orange rays and a disc of the same color. The plant has now (July 22d) been in bloom a month or so, but no flowers have faded as yet. The disc swells from the growth of the seeds, this is all the difference between the old and new flowers, the latter coming forth all the time, making a mass of yellow visible as far as an object of this size can be seen. The petals or rays bend down at night, but rise up again soon after sunrise. No plant can be of easier culture and it is thoroughly satisfactory.

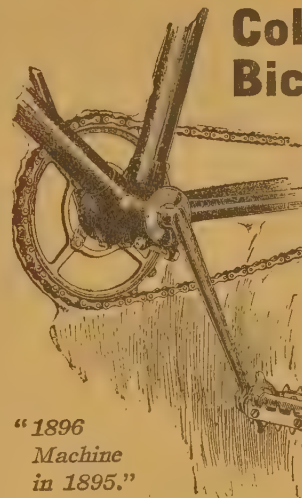
E. S. GILBERT.

SEEDING TO CRIMSON CLOVER.

Thousands of acres in the middle and southern States are being seeded to this crop, which in this section is creating as much excitement as alfalfa has raised in the central west, while experiments with crimson clover are being made in New England and also in the central and western States. As a hay forage I have never found anything to equal it, while the seed yields as high as twelve to fifteen bushels per acre, though five to ten bushels is a fair average. It is found to be one of the best crops to use in connection with orcharding, trucking, or berry growing. It fills the rotation exactly. For instance, plant peas in the spring, and follow with tomatoes for the cannery as soon as the peas are off. When you lay tomatoes by, seed with crimson clover. Thus the ground is occupied with some crop all the time, and in the following May, if soil and season have been favorable, you will have a crop of clover two or three feet high to cut for hay or ensilage, and a good crop of stubble and roots to turn under to enrich the soil. Corn, potatoes, or any other crop may follow. Of course this is only one instance. Many orchards are seeded with the clover, either to plow under as a fertilizer, or to be cut for hay.

I prefer not to seed the entire ground in an orchard. The ground should be well broken, then a smoothing harrow or drag run over it, followed with the seeder, one strip of fourteen feet between a peach tree row being enough. Then harrow again and roll. Where a large quantity of land is to be seeded it is best to have these operations all go on at once, for if the ground is moist the seed will sprout in a few days, and on seed left unrolled or unharrowed the sprouts will be broken off from many of them, thus reducing the chances for a good stand. By all means roll the seed in the ground *not on it*. I have tried just rolling the seed on freshly harrowed ground, and while much of the seed sprouts and takes root, not one-half will grow. If sown previous to August 15th in this latitude, the chances are that the hot sun will kill it, although early seeding is no doubt best if you can get a stand. Having lost my entire seeding once or twice, I am cautious now not to seed before that time. I have known good stands as late as October 1st, but the chances are that the clover will not make much root before cold weather sets in, yielding a poor crop. A great deal is sown in standing corn at the last harrow or cultivating. If the work is well done, under flat culture, so that the field is left smooth after the corn is cut at the bottom, the result is likely to be very satisfactory, because the corn will shade the young clover and permit it to get a fine stand. Many farmers have made the mistake of sowing crimson clover in the spring. It is only an annual, maturing the seed with the first crop. The root dies as soon as seed is matured.—*Charles Wright, Delaware, in American Agriculturist.*

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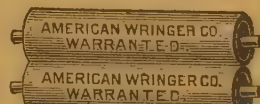
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SOME FLOWERS OF YE OLDEN TIME.

THE flower-lover looks forward rather than backward, to a time when the seeds will have come up, or perennials and trees be grown larger, not to mention the hope for new hybrids and exotics hitherto unknown,—a flower in the bush being rather more than one in the hand. So a few reminiscences going back something more than forty years, when many or most people in the vicinity still lived in log cabins, may not be without interest.

A plant called "Bear's Paw" was a sedum or mesembryanthemum—or something else. I think it was a house plant, but I do not remember its flowers, if it had any; I can just recollect its rough leaves hanging over the edge of pots or boxes.

The "Jerusalem cherry," *Solanum capsicistrum*, was a favorite, its scarlet fruits shone till mid-winter when it was generally sent to the cellar until spring.

A monthly rose and monthly pink in the cellar two months or so, bloomed the rest of the year or nearly. The pink was a single bright red sort, with deep green foliage; the rose, seldom more than a foot high, was crimson and double. Both survived many freezings.

The list of house plants was a short one when the horse-shoe geranium could not be grown, or at least was not.

The live-for-ever, *Sedum telephium*, had nearly got out of fashion before my day, but few yards were without it, along the fence or in out of the way corners.

The house leek, or "Old hen and chickens," *Sempervivum tectorum*, was much cultivated; the stone crop or "Creeping Charlie," *Sedum acre*, also. The house leek seldom flowered; the stone crop was a blaze of yellow every spring.

The "Clarissa sage" was perhaps the digitalis, but I do not remember it very clearly.

Pæony officinalis, a dark red double flower called "piny," coming from Central Europe and of different habit from the modern Chinese race was and is much grown. The tiger lily came later, but still is old.

The wild cucumber, *Echinocystis lobata*, was a rampant climber, going to the highest part of the house with half a chance; its white male flowers were in spikes a foot high; the green fruit covered with soft thorns, had four large amber brown seeds which self-sowed freely. A young woman brought a handful of the roots of the creeper, or woodbine as some choose to call it, *Calystegia pubescens*, and I heard her say to my mother "If you break them into inch pieces they will all grow,"—and the worst of it was this was perfectly true. For many years this vine was trained over windows and porches, but no one does it now. For years I have dug and pulled with little or no good effect, but if hogs can be admitted to places infested with it they will dig and eat the last root.

Here is a book published in 1825 with a list of sixty-five annuals and perennials, shrubs and trees. "The fir is not a flowering tree, but it is a beautiful evergreen." "Dahlias should have a poor, gravelly soil, lest they become too luxu-

riant. They are of many colors, single and double. The flowers are more numerous in a poor soil." I saw pictures of dahlias long before I saw the living plant, and when at last it came it was a ragged semi-double pink and white sort, chiefly remarkable for its utter indifference to adversity and its huge crop of tubers. "Fading Beauty, or Mourning Bride, *Scabiosa atropurpurea*—An annual having beautiful flowers, but they last only an hour or two." "China asters are of many colors, beautiful to the sight." All single, no doubt; ours were at least.

Sweet peas, or one variety at least, was here before my time, and there was a so-called "fancy pea," with narrow glaucous leaflets, dark purple scentless flowers and black pods, gone long ago. The "coffee bean," as the English Windsor bean or house bean, *Vicia faba*, was called, was an inmate of the flower border. The "coffee pea" had only one seed in a pod and was perhaps of the genus *Cicer*. There was the morning glory and nasturtium or "stershun," one variety at least of each; "leveretts" (*lavatera* ?), bachelor's button, "Lady in the green" or "fennel flower" or "ragged lady" or "Devil's head in a bush," *Nigella sativa*, sweet williams, southern wood (*artemisia*), "Bouncing Bet" (*saponaria*), borage, poppies, single and double.

The sun spurge, *Euphorbia helioscopia*, was grown for the singular regularity of its whorls of smooth leaves and branches; it is still a garden weed. Tall clumps of borage, or "smellage," (*Ligusticum*), were to be seen—and smelt too—here and there; after all its odor was that of celery, and there is nothing dreadful about that. The pansy was the little "Johnny-jump-up," *Viola tricolor*, with quite a variety of markings, and relative proportions of its violet-blue and yellow tints, but the present size and range of coloring had not even been imagined.

The "Cat's eye," *Hibiscus trionum*, more curious than pretty, with a dark spot on each of its pale yellow petals and one of the hairiest of plants, was common; and columbines or "celandine" (*aquilegia*), single and double, blue, red and white, were everywhere. The pot marigold (*calendula*) was single and self-sowed in every garden; the modern double sorts still self-sow.

Then we had annual larkspurs, monkshood, cypress moss, *Euphorbia Cyparissias*, and sedums of various sorts. I do not remember any hollyhocks, but tall erect plants of the genus *Malva*, "high mallows," etc., were plenty; one was eight feet or more, with very small, pale flowers,

but with a great show of curled leaves,—a foliage plant in fact. Another, four feet high, had large red flowers, striped with deeper red; we ate its green seeds. Both self-sowed freely, but now are extinct it seems. I would be glad to see the red sort again.

The holythistle, or "Devil's head and horns," *Carduus Marianum*, with its great round mat of spiny, radical leaves splashed with white (the Virgin Mary's milk fell upon them, they say), and its large dull red flowers, was seen now and then. The prickly pear was grown more then than now, often treated as a house plant, though it will live out of doors. A plant called rosemary was a species of tansy, with entire leaves, nearly as odoriferous as the ordinary sorts. Small-flowered "artemisias," *chrysanthemums* or *pyrethrums*, were plenty,—not perfectly hardy, or imperfect perennials, I never knew which. Tansy, motherwort, gill-over-the-ground, bergamot (thyme) were cultivated at one time, no doubt; but not in my day,—there was no need of it. Gill-over-the-ground is a pest if allowed in the garden; as a hanging basket plant it is a success; vines two yards long are grown with all ease. Clumps of asparagus were grown for ornament; some never knew it was edible.

This is perhaps only a good beginning,—the reader's patience might be exhausted before the list was complete. Any middle-aged reader can think of as many more no doubt. Some old-time plants are gone entirely; some are still here just as they were, others have been changed and show new colors and forms. Great as the changes in number of available species and their character have been, the grower of today is no different from the one of fifty years ago; the love of flowers is the feeling and is more important than the means which may chance to be at hand for its exercise. We would smile to see one today setting out Bouncing Bet plant; fifty years hence one may be superior to French cannas!

E. S. GILBERT.

GARDEN FLOWERS AND PLANTS.

A little book on easily raised garden flowers, and general instructions for growing them. Being an English work some of its varieties recommended for certain purposes are not always applicable in this country, but such lists are more for suggestion than for close following. In this country actual selections will be made from seed and nursery catalogues. But the general directions are good and helpful, and those in need of some simple work on flower gardening may read it with profit.

It is written by J. Wright, F.R.H.S., assistant editor of the *Journal of Horticulture*, and published by Macmillan & Co., of New York. Price thirty-five cents.

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YUCCA FILAMENTOSA.

YUCCA filamentosa, or as it is popularly known as Bear's Thread or Adam's Needle, is an ornamental evergreen perennial plant having a cluster of lance linear, sword-shaped leaves, which are regularly serrated, and edged with slender threads which hang down some two or three inches. The flowers are produced during the months of June and July, and are borne on flower scapes or in terminal panicles which attain a height of six or eight feet. The individual flowers are numerous, cup shaped, pendulous, and of a cream color, and the plant remains in bloom for a considerable time. The inflorescence is, however, but a small part of its attractions, as its foliage is of the richest green during the autumn and winter months when all other flowering and foliage plants have died away, and left no trace of their summer beauty; and it seems surprising that a plant so highly ornamental and so easily grown should not receive more attention and be more frequently seen on our lawns and in our flower borders. But beyond here and there an occasional, neglected specimen it is seldom met with. A plant so highly ornamental and so easily grown should be found on every lawn and in every flower border, and as it requires



YUCCA FILAMENTOSA.

but little attention after being planted, deserves all that can be said in its praise.

The yucca should be grown in groups on the lawn or as a single specimen in the mixed border. It should be given a very deep, well enriched soil and every fall a heavy dressing of good stable manure, and this should be dug in around the plants the ensuing spring. Beyond this no further care is required save to cut away the flower stalks as soon as their beauty is over, and to remove all dead foliage occasionally. Propagation is effected by seeds, also by suckers, which are freely produced by the older plants; these suckers, if carefully removed in the early spring and carefully planted, will soon make fine specimens.

Amateurs or others who desire to obtain a supply of this noble plant will find it more desirable to purchase rather than attempt their propagation, as they can be obtained at a moderate price of any florist. In planting the yucca on the lawn I prefer to set the plants in groups of six or eight, three to five feet apart.

The generic name yucca is the Peruvian name of the plant, while the specific, "filamentosa," refers to the thread-like filaments which are borne on the margin of the leaves.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

TO CATCH CUT WORMS.

The following remedies and preventive measures have been used for cut worms and are advised by F. A. Sirrine in *The Florists' Exchange*:

1—Placing around the plants fruit or vegetable cans from which top and bottom have been removed. The top of the can should be three or four inches above the surface of the ground. The ends can be unsoldered by throwing the tins into a fire.

2—Plowing the ground early in September, and not allowing the weeds to grow.

3—Plowing the ground late in the fall or early in spring, keeping the surface free from weeds by cultivation, and not putting a crop on same until the middle of May or first of June. During the first ten days of May fresh cut clover, grass or weeds which have been dipped in water containing Paris green should be strewn over the ground each evening.

4—Collecting the worms in the evening while they are feeding. This requires a good light and sharp eyes.

5—Each morning hunting for the worms around the fresh cut plants.

6—Using "light traps" at intervals during the months of July, August and September. These traps are made by filling a tub or half-cask two-thirds full of water, pouring a little kerosene over the surface, and hanging a lantern over the tub.

The eggs from which the cut worms hatch are laid by moths or "millers" during the months of July, August and September, usually in grass patches and meadows. The worms feed a short time during the fall, then make a cell of earth in which they live over winter. In the spring they have good appetites and feed ravenously until nearly full grown, after which they change to a chrysalid, and finally back to moths.

If you have a small garden, use the tin cans and hunt for the cut worms while feeding, and when stirring the soil mornings. If you wish to plant late cabbage or potatoes, use poisoned bait. If you have meadows use the lantern traps.

A PITTSBURG IMPROVEMENT.

It is proposed to do away with the smoke nuisance in Pittsburg by erecting at some convenient coal mine a mammoth electric power plant to furnish the city with current for electric lighting, heating and power, thus entirely doing away with the burning of coal in and immediately about Pittsburg. It is thought by Mr. Robert Marshall, of the firm of Marshall Bros., elevator builders, the originator of the scheme, that electricity could be furnished from such a plant cheaper than power could be generated in isolated city plants.

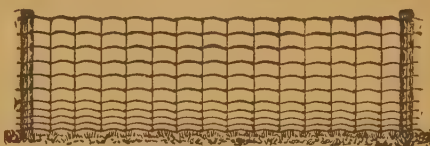
The word "plant" in the above is used in a very modern sense, but our Pittsburg friends will find that if they accomplish this improvement that they can have a great many plants of choice varieties that are now difficult for them to raise.

FRESH FRUITS IN BORAX.

Some trials recently made in California of keeping fresh fruits in borax are said to have given very satisfactory results. Cherries placed in powdered borax have kept for weeks. It remains to be seen if this discovery will introduce a new method of shipping fresh fruits across the country.

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Ever since my "calfhood" I had been in trouble, inherited a tendency to "breaking out." After a severe attack I have often been confined to the stable for weeks. Also troubled with a ringing sensation in my nose, and a feeling as if stuck with pitchforks by angry men. I was threatened with "Bologna treatment," but a friend recommended **Elasticity** as compounded by the Page Woven Wire Fence Co., Adrian, Mich. One dose worked a complete cure, and I can freely recommend it in all similar cases.

Yours truly, Durham Bull.



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LILY OF THE VALLEY.

WHILE we see hyacinths, crocus, daffodils, and all kinds of narcissi blooming in our friends' windows in winter, we seldom see lilies of the valley. Writers in floral magazines almost always insist that they cannot be made to blossom in an ordinary window, saying



that even florists find it hard to succeed with them. My experience has been somewhat different, and so far I have never had a complete failure with them. Sometimes, to be sure, they do better than at others, but I can usually trace it to some fault of my own.

When I take pips from my own garden I do not have as good success usually as when I procure them from a florist quite late in the season. I have had them as late as January and they have blossomed all right.



LILY OF THE VALLEY PIP.

I plant the pips closely in a large pot or box with the head of the pip a trifle above the soil.

Then I put a layer of sphagnum over the soil, water them well and set them away in a dark place where they will freeze a little. After a while I bring them out into a warm atmosphere but do not give them the full heat of a sunny window for several days. Gradually they are brought to it, and soon the buds appear. The moss is left on and is always kept moist, as a florist once told me that if the head of the pips ever becomes dry all hope of blossoms is gone. Nothing can be sweeter than the dainty little white bells, and as they are general favorites it is a pity they are not more generally seen in our windows in winter. BERNICE BAKER.

VIOLETS IN WINTER.

A very interesting series of articles has been running for a few months past in the *Journal of Horticulture*, by Mr. G. Hart, on The Profitable Employment of Glass Structures in Winter. He has the following to say in relation to the violet:

In the violet we have a plant that flowers with the greatest freedom during the dull months of the year, and in my opinion Marie Louise is the best variety, as it is very free, continuing in bloom from September till March; at the beginning of March the plants receive a top dressing of sifted leaf-mold worked well in between them, and by the second week in April they have made a number of splendidly rooted runners. The old plants are then lifted, the runners being planted on an east border which had previously had a quantity of leaf-mold and road grit dug into it. I plant nine inches apart in rows one foot asunder, as I find this allows ample room to keep the soil stirred between them during summer. All the runners are pinched back as fast as they appear, and the plants are syringed in the evening if the weather is hot and dry. Never allow the plants to get dry at their roots, or red spider will make its appearance on the leaves, and once it gets a firm hold it is very difficult to get rid of. Besides checking the growth it causes the leaves to damp off very badly when housed in the winter, the blooms being very poor in consequence.

During the first week in September, the plants are carefully lifted and planted in a low span-roofed house, fifty feet long, twelve feet wide, and eight feet high, having a path down the center two feet wide, with a 4½-inch brick wall on each side 2½ feet high, leaving two beds each about 4½ feet wide. The violets are planted in a compost of equal parts loam and leaf-mold, receive a good watering, and are syringed for a week or ten days, by which time they will be growing freely again. All the air possible is admitted until frost sets in. The house is heated with flow and return pipes, which run round the house. Ventilation is afforded at the top and sides, and there is a good water tank at one end.

By giving the violet this treatment and keeping the temperature about 45°, with plenty of air, abundance of blooms of fine quality will be had. Never pick the blooms till they are fully expanded, as it is surprising what a size they attain after they appear to be fully expanded.

BRIDGET—"Soy, Pat, for why is it they calls this our tin weddin'?" PATRICK—"Faith, an' it' becaze we've bin married tin years."

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CRIMSON RAMBLER AT HOME.

A writer over the signature of Nomad, in a recent issue of the *Journal of Horticulture*, describes a visit at the Turner's Royal Nurseries, at Slough, England, to see the Crimson Rambler at the place where it was first propagated and from which it was disseminated:

For sometime past one of the first questions horticulturists have asked has been, Have you seen Crimson Rambler? Naturally, during the period immediately succeeding its introduction many persons were compelled to respond in the negative. At the present time, however, it is fairly safe to say that most flower lovers have seen this rose at some of the exhibitions. Just now one might propound another query and say Have you seen Crimson Rambler at home? The probabilities are that many persons would again have to answer in the negative. To these the writer would say, Take the first train you can catch in daylight to Slough and see it, for the spectacle is superb; but more of this later. Rosarians and non-rosarians who visited the National Rose Society's show at the Palace would see the magnificent examples of Crimson Rambler that were staged by Mr. Charles Turner; but to appreciate the full decorative value of this remarkable variety it must be seen growing in all its luxuriance and clothed with its clusters of glowing flowers.

To see them at home, Mr. Arthur Turner was sought out and asked if a visit could not be paid at once. With the courtesy that this gentleman is noted for he replied "Come when you like," and the very earliest chance was decided on then and there. Of course great things were expected, but greater were found. As the train sped along the imagination was allowed to picture what we were going to see, with a result of building a fairly high castle ere Slough was reached, and yet it did not do credit to the rose at home. Most of our readers know that it is but a short walk from the station to the Royal Nurseries, so that we were soon with Mr. Arthur Turner and Mrs. Charles Turner in their delightful home at the top of the nursery. A short chat in the cool room was very enjoyable, but time was scarce, and we had soon to turn out in the broiling sun, tracks being first made to the carnation houses—but of these more anon.

Leaving the houses we walked away to the open ground, getting glimpses of roses and other flowers on our way, until we came to the first row of the Polyantha of Polyanthas. In this case it was in the form of a hedge composed of plants two years old from the bud and worked on the Manetti stock. These specimens have been cut down once, and are now carrying extraordinary numbers of flowers in immense symmetrical trusses. The row presented a carpet of crimson on a green ground when viewed at a distance of a few yards, and put the other roses in the vicinity completely in the shade; the plants were about three or four feet in height, but the shoots being made which will produce the flowers next season are considerably longer, stouter, and better every way. These will have only the unripe points removed, it having been found that hard pruning is not conducive of floriferousness. Thus entirely new growths are requisitioned every year, and apparently each is stronger than its predecessor.

From here we made our way with the aid of a pony and trap to Langley, where the firm has a piece of nursery ground covering about fifty acres. As we were thus making progress Mr. Turner gave his opinions on the best stock for the Rambler, and was of the opinion that there was none equal to the Manetti, as with some others it completely outgrew them. The training must of course depend almost entirely on the position of the plants, but grown as they are at Slough the shoots are simply tied down with a string, thus being made to cover a piece of ground very quickly. Of course plants may be trained to walls or fences, for which purpose no roses are better adapted, while the Rambler is certainly as useful for the adornment of summer

houses. The variety is, moreover, a good doer, and rarely fails to become established if only ordinary care is bestowed on it after planting.

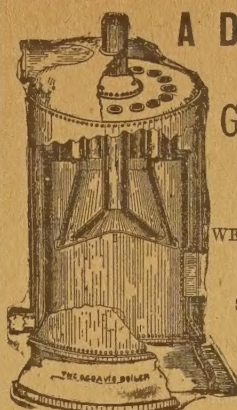
The first plot of Rambler that we came to in this nursery was one several rods in extent and which is now a perfect mass of flowers and beautiful rich green foliage. We were rather surprised to see such a number, and learned on inquiry that they had all been ordered, but the weather at the time had been so adverse to planting that it was deemed advisable to let the orders wait until another season. These plants were three years old from the bud, and many of them had attained to a height of between five and six feet, while several of the growths that have been made this year are almost, if not quite eight feet high and of extraordinary thickness. A little distance away we came to another stretch, in which case the plants were flowering even more profusely and developing a much richer color, due in all probability to the manure with which each row had been well mulched. This shows that Crimson Rambler, like all other plants, appreciates and well repays any little attentions that may be bestowed on it from time to time.

Besides these big plants there were hundreds of smaller ones ready for sending out when the proper time arrives, and in addition to these, propagation is being carried on in every possible way and at all suitable times. From curiosity the number of blooms on one truss was counted and it reached the extraordinary total of 175. Surely more need not be said as to its blooming proclivities. It is a rose, too, that one might call clean, as the petals do not fall and cause a litter as is the case with the majority of other roses belonging to this section. Still one other good point is found in the long time that the flowers retain their crimson color, not fading as the Polyanthas usually do.

THE LUTOVKA CHERRY.

This variety of cherry is largely grown in Poland and Silesia as a roadside tree. It was brought to this country by Prof. Budd, of Ames, Iowa, and was planted at the experiment Station, at Geneva, N. Y., in 1888. Dr. Collins, the superintendent, thinks it worthy of introduction as a late, sour cherry, and is distributing buds of it the present season. The following is his description of it:

Tree of Morello type, a vigorous grower, young branches rather slender; fruit firm, good quality, sprightly acid, as large as English Morello or larger, more nearly round, very similar to that variety in color, but the flesh is not so dark; clings tenaciously to the long stem. So far as tested here the tree has proved to be very productive, ripening its fruit as late as, or later than the English Morello.



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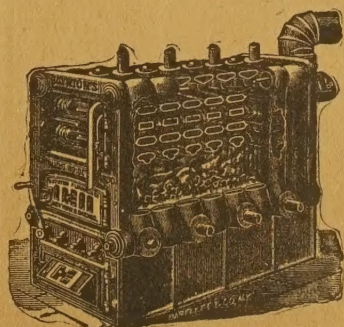
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PRUNING ROSES.

A pleasant writer in a foreign journal supplies food for thought for those who would like to learn how to prune roses:

Pruning, too, is quite a woman's work, provided her heart is hard. A well-pruned rose garden looks such a wilderness in March, as wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of rose wood goes away. No rule can be laid down for this work, practical observation is the only recipe, and knowledge of the habit of the variety. Amateurs usually fail by doing too little, and leaving too much badly ripened wood and weak growths crowded together. A friend unused to rose growing prayed her husband just to spare her one bed so that she might have a few early blooms. He was a silent man; smiled, and did her bidding. She got her early blooms, but oh! such frost-injured, insect mangled specimens that she could not bear to look at them. Next year she used a sharp knife fearlessly, and then had "glorious roses."

SUB-IRRIGATION IN THE GARDEN.

The communication on this subject on page 171 is worthy of careful perusal and consideration. The application of the principle of sub-irrigation by the method described is capable of being utilized for many crops in the garden, vegetables as well as flowers. For strawberries it would, no doubt give some excellent results.

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481

A LIVELY TIME.—She: I was playing whist also last night. It was the first meeting of our Young Ladies' Whist Club. He: I wondered what made you so hoarse.—*Life*.

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- | | |
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| <p>3 Ixias There is a greater difference in the form and color of the Ixias than with almost any other class of plants. They make a nice addition, and will give variety to the larger bulbs, as Hyacinths, etc.</p> <p>3 Oxalis Rosy crimson, canary yellow, and pure white. For all positions calling for graceful and effective flowering plants, these flowers excel.</p> <p>6 Tulips Including the pure white L'Immaculæ, Carmine King, and charming Yellow Prince, with three of those most striking and handsome PARROT tulips, a curious and interesting sort.</p> <p>6 Crocus Large, fine named bulbs. SIR ROBERT PEEL, azure blue; QUEEN VICTORIA, pure white; PRESIDENT GRANT, fancifully striped; MAMMOTH GOLDEN, beautiful yellow; PRINCESS OF WALES, dark blue; LA MAJESTEUSE, beautifully striped.</p> <p>3 Jonquils Admirably adapted for window culture. Deliciously sweet scented, and the large golden flowers make a beautiful picture.</p> <p>4 Anemone The beautiful Wind Flower, finest colors. Two single and two double.</p> <p>2 Narcissus Large flowering Grand Monarque and Paper White grandiflora.</p> | <p>3 Narcissus Single Von Sion.</p> <p>3 Hyacinths The finest named of this class of beautiful flowers. AMY, red; BARON VON TUYLL, white; REGULUS, blue.</p> <p>3 Scilla Siberica One of the brightest, prettiest and hardiest of the early spring flowers.</p> <p>2 Roman Hyacinths This is a valuable and beautiful variety; each bulb produces several graceful spikes of bloom. The pearly whiteness and delicious perfume make them exceedingly popular.</p> <p>6 Freesia refracta alba Flowers of the purest white, giving forth an exquisite fragrance.</p> <p>6 Allium Neapolitanum Will start to grow as soon as potted, and showing clusters of delicate white flow- with a distinct beauty of their own.</p> |
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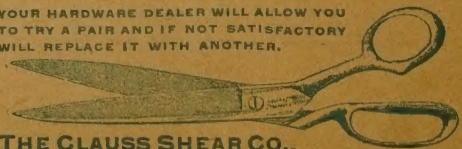


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